

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. ____

Introduced by: **Day, Sullivan, Murphy**

A HOUSE RESOLUTION honoring St. Philip Neri Catholic Church on their 100th anniversary.

Whereas, St. Philip Neri Catholic Church was dedicated June 27, 1909 after research and a census convinced Bishop Francis S. Chatard that a new east side parish was needed; and

Whereas, this historic church, a source of stability and a beacon of hope for the neighborhood, has an inspiring record of serving a diverse population initially those of Irish and German ancestry and in recent decades those of Hispanic backgrounds; and

Whereas, St. Philip Neri has been enriched by the leadership and vision of its pastors including the Rev. George J. Smith, the founding pastor under whose leadership the church and school were built, legendary pastor Monsignor Albert Busald, who served from 1934-1971, Father Gerald Kirkhoff, an SPN graduate, who established programs to



strengthen the social and spiritual life of the parish, Father Mike O'Mara who began bilingual/Spanish masses and welcomed Hispanic children to the parish school, and Father Carlton Beever, the current pastor, who has successfully expanded outreach to the Hispanic community and seeks to make the parish even more relevant to the area; and

Whereas, another pastor Rev. Glenn O'Connor with the support of teachers, parents, students, volunteers and friends of St. Philip Neri organized a highly effective Spring 1991 fundraiser, the Run, Walk, Prayathon to keep SPN school open, raising over \$200,000 in a three-week period; and

Whereas, in the modern era, pastoral associates have played a valuable role in the well being of parish life and St. Philip Neri has been strengthened by the good work of Pastoral Associates; Sr. Gwen O'Malley, S.P., Tom Bogenschutz, Sr. Nancy Ferguson, OSF, Juan Escamez and Roberto Marquez; and

Whereas, generations of St. Philip Neri School students, guided by the skill and remarkable dedication of the Sisters of Providence for over 70 years and in recent times by talented lay teachers, have gone on to excel in business, their professions and in service to the church and community; and

Whereas, the people of St. Philip Neri have had a very impressive history of service to the church and community in multiple volunteer roles as coaches in C.Y.O. sponsored sports programs, or Scout leaders, as members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, also using their talents in theatre production and in choral groups and by participants in neighborhood and community organizations; and

Whereas, the emerging Hispanic community has contributed to the spiritual, social, and cultural life of the Parish by organizing three choirs, a dance group, Jornadas (Journey), an active Religious Education Program and liturgy planning coordinated by Antonio Becerra; and

Whereas, since the first Parish Council in 1970 where



members included Patricia Commons, Charles Koers, Dave O'Connor, Terry O'Hara, Mary Pluckebaum and Paul Sponsel on through the current Council with President Karen McMeans, former President Charlie Davis, plus Jim Finnay, Francisco Garcia, Ann Housz and Mary Kendall along with other parish leaders including Tom Redmond have helped guide the parish in a period of transition; therefore

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives honor St. Philip Neri Catholic Church on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the Indiana House of Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to St. Philip Neri Catholic Church.

